1) In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following paragraph:

[0001] This application relates to the following co-pending and commonly assigned patent application~~applications~~: Serial No. 09/911,148, filed on July 23, 2001, entitled "Valve Seal Assemblies and Methods," now U.S. Patent No. 6,664,572~~X,XXX,XXX~~, which application is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following paragraph:

[0004] A gate valve is a type of valve that includes a substantially rectangular-shaped gate that is moved by an operator in and out of the valve body to control the fluid. The operator may be manual or may be actuated hydraulically, pneumatically or electrically, for example. A gate valve also includes an annular or ring-shaped seat member that seals against the gate. Depending on gate valve design, one seat member may be disposed on either side of the gate, or alternatively, additional seat members may be disposed adjacent the seat member, which seat members are involved in the sealing of the valve. The additional seat members seal the passage between the seat member and body pocket.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following paragraph:

[0005] A valve body pocket generally houses the seal assembly. A valve seal assembly generally includes sealing members such as the seat member adjacent the valve engaging member and other associated seat members which may be referred to as a body bushing or pocket insert, as examples. A seal assembly also generally includes at least one seal ring, which provides ~~provide~~ a seal between the various seat members, valve body pocket and the gate. Expanding gate valves utilize expanding gate assembly structures comprising a gate element and segment, which are adapted to expand transversely of one another against the sealing rings.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following paragraph:

[0009] Several designs for valve seal assemblies and methods are described in commonly assigned patent application Serial No. 09/911,148, filed on July 23, 2001, entitled "Valve Seal Assemblies and Methods," now U.S. Patent No. 6,664,572~~X,XXX,XXX~~, which application is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following paragraph:

[0033] Preferably, optional support rings 138 and 140 are disposed within U-shaped seal rings 118 and 122, respectively, as shown, to help prevent rotation, displacement or collapse of the U-shaped seal rings 118 and 122. Preferably, support rings 138 and 140 are comprised of a heat-resistant thermoplastic such as polyphenol sulfide (e.g., Ryton™), for example. Preferably, support ~~supports~~ ring 138 comprises a split ring ~~rings~~ for ease of installation within the seal ring 118. Support ring 140 preferably is one-piece continuous design having no slit, as it can be slid

easily within the open lips of the seal ring 122. Preferably, support rings 138 and 140 do not provide a seal, but are used primarily for mechanical support.

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following paragraph:

[0046] Figure 3 illustrates an embodiment of the present invention that is similar to the embodiment shown in Figure 1. Corresponding element numbers in Figures 1 and 3 refer to corresponding elements and as such, a duplication of description of the elements will be avoided. The embodiment shown in Figure 3 does not include the optional support rings 138 and 140 for seal rings 218 and 222, and does not include the optional built-in lip 132 and ~~an~~ accommodating recess 134 for the lip 132, for example.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following paragraph:

[0048] The annular grooves 114, 120, 124, 134, 214, 220, and 224~~, and 234~~ and built-in lip 132 described herein are preferably machined, as will be understood by one skilled in the art. For example, computer numerically controlled (CNC) programming may be used to machine the seat members 108 and 208 and pocket inserts 106 and 206. Alternatively, the grooves 114, 120, 124, 134, 214, 220, and 224 ~~and 234~~ and built-in lip 132 may be molded-in, for example.